

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 6-9, 21-24, 26 and cancel claim 25 in accordance with the following:

1. (CANCELLED)

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (CANCELLED)

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printing control method in a printing apparatus which has a plurality of paper feed inlets and a plurality of paper discharge outlets, establishes a plurality of ~~operating relationships with~~ logical printers, each of which is used exclusively by a corresponding one of a plurality of devices, ~~in parallel and~~ prints using one of the plurality of ~~operating relationships~~ logical printers in accordance with a print request from ~~a the~~ corresponding one of the plurality of devices, comprising :

establishing a relevant operating relationships ~~operating relationships with~~ logical printer selected from the plurality of ~~operating relationships with~~ logical printers corresponding to the print requesting device;

specifying a paper feed inlet and a paper discharge outlet for each of the ~~operating relationships~~ logical printers, respectively, and storing specified paper feed inlets and paper discharge outlets in a table; ~~and~~

assigning a paper feed inlet and a paper discharge outlet for each of the established ~~operating relationships~~ logical printers based on the contents stored in the table; ~~and~~

receiving a print request from one of the plurality of devices independently of receiving a print request from another of the plurality of devices, and processing the print requests from

each of the plurality of devices independently.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printing control method according to claim 6, wherein a paper discharge outlet is assigned for each ~~operating relationship of the logical printers~~, so that the same paper discharge outlet is not assigned to another of the logical printers in the plurality of operating relationships.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printing control method according to claim 6, wherein a paper feed inlet and a paper discharge outlet for each ~~operation relationship~~ logical printer, are assigned by a panel operation.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printing control method according to claim 6, wherein the states of the ~~operating relationships~~ logical printers are displayed in a list.

10 - 20 (CANCELLED)

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printing control method in an apparatus which has feed inlets and discharge outlets, and prints in accordance with a print request from a plurality of devices, comprising:

establishing ~~more than one operating relationship~~ a plurality of logical printers with a plurality of devices in parallel, wherein each ~~relationship of the logical printers~~ is ~~established~~ used exclusively and independently with each a corresponding one of the respective devices; and

assigning a feed inlet and a discharge outlet specified in advance for each ~~operating relationship of the logical printers; and~~

receiving a print request from one of the plurality of devices independently of receiving a print request from another of the plurality of devices, and processing the print requests from each of the plurality of devices independently.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A control method according to claim 21, wherein a discharge outlet is specified for each ~~operating relationship of the logical printers~~, so that the same discharge outlet is not assigned ~~in a plurality of operating relationships~~ to another one of the logical printers.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A control method according to claim 21, wherein a feed inlet and a discharge outlet are specified for each ~~operating relationship of the logical printers~~ by a panel operation.

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A control method according to claim 21, further comprising displaying the states of the ~~operating relationships~~ logical printers in a list.

25. (CANCELLED)

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printing apparatus, comprising:
feed inlets and discharge ~~inlets~~ outlets;
a printer engine to print on a sheet of paper; and
a printer controller to establish ~~more than one operating relationship~~ a plurality of logical printers with a plurality of devices in parallel, wherein each ~~operating relationship of the logical printers~~ is established used exclusively and independently with each a corresponding one of the respective devices, and to print in accordance with a print request from one of the plurality of devices by using a feed inlet and a discharge outlet specified in advance for each ~~operating relationship of the logical printers~~.

wherein a print request is received from one of the plurality of devices independently of receiving a print request from another of the plurality of devices, and wherein the print requests are processed from each of the plurality of devices independently.